

# hope for Cambodian children

## About us

Hope for Cambodian Children (HFCC) is a charitable Foundation that cares for abandoned children and assists those from the poorest areas of the community.

HFCC is an Australian / Cambodian partnership. We are a non-government and non-religious organisation, reliant upon private donations and sponsorship from Australia.

Located in a rural area, just outside the town of Battambang, HFCC provides shelter, food, education and medical care to around 100 children, with ages ranging from 10 months to 19 years.

## Our Philosophy

HFCC aspires to make a meaningful contribution to the development of Cambodia by caring for individuals within the context of their own community.

It is our goal to provide children with food, education, healthcare, support and the opportunity to one day care for themselves.

HFCC strives to create a family environment of support, education and care.



## History of HFCC

A small group of private citizens undertook careful research and visits to projects in a number of countries. They found a small project in Battambang in Cambodia where they felt they could make a real difference. It is called Hope For Cambodian Children. HFCC cares for children who have lost their family support systems, mostly commonly through HIV AIDS.

Since 2005, private donations have made it possible to purchase land on a new site, and construct buildings to house around 100 children.

Since that time HFCC has developed a number of projects to provide care for the children and support the local community. Please see the details of these projects below.



# Education Program @ HFCC

## Introduction

Education is the central focus of the HFCC. Our children and staff recognize that education is the best way to ensure a successful future in Cambodia. Our aim is to provide a supportive educational environment with a holistic system of care.

All of the children over the age of five attend local public schools.

HFCC has developed a good relationship with local schools and receives reports of grades and attendance on our children.

Our educational services are designed to support the children's their public school education. However, as the learning in these institutions is limited we provide additional English education, activity based learning, computer learning and some vocational training.



## Our Programs:

### 1. Early Primary School Learning

This class is for children under the age of 12 who have had no previous English tuition. The overall objective of this class is to introduce the children to the English education environment. Much of the learning is activity based to encourage a cohesive and interactive learning. There is a high emphasis on introducing materials in the classroom (a concept foreign to learning in Cambodia).



### 2. Primary School Program

This class is for all children studying at a Primary School level, who have some knowledge of the English language. The objective of this class is to introduce specific topics and areas of study for the children to expand their basic knowledge of the English language.

Attached to each topic is a range of teaching methods, including – activity learning – group work – translation – formal learning – and oral performance. There is a spread of ages in the class, ranging from 9 to 16. The teacher is also available to help the children with their studies in the public school system.



### **3. Secondary School Program**

There are two classes in this area, organised in terms of English ability. The classes are for all children studying at a Secondary School level, ages ranging from 14 to 19. The objective of the two classes is the creation of an English environment that facilitates learning. This means using materials such as music, movies and posters. There is an emphasis on encouraging the children to interact and be orally involved in the classroom. There is also an aim to individualize teaching to particular students needs.

### **4. Library Learning program**

The library program is a less formal educational environment, designed to support the other forms of learning provided at the HFCC.

It is open to all children of any age or ability. The children are able to follow their own areas of interest and learn at their own rate. The library is designed as a fun and safe environment for the children to undertake activity based learning in a group environment.



HFCC has the largest library in Battambang, open to the whole community.

Our resources include: puzzles, games, toys, musical instruments, listening books and books in both English and Khmer.

### **5. Computer Learning Program (in development)**

This program is currently being developed and only running on a small scale. As such its curriculum is dependant on financing and the number of computer available.

We are currently seeking donations of laptop computers.



## **6.      Preschool Learning Program (in development)**

It is the objective of the program to provide extra education to children under seven living in our centre. The added support of a pre-school program will enable us to care for more children in this age bracket at the orphanage.

The second aspect of the program will be the community initiative. We are hoping to provide education and care to poor children of the community that live with their family and relatives. This will enable us to monitor the wellbeing of a larger population and ensure our services are reaching those most in need.

The focus of the program will be activity learning. Both English and Khmer language will be part of the curriculum.

## **7.      Vocational Training & Further Education Program**

The decisions for further education for the young people in our centre are made on a case by case basis. For many, University is a realistic option, whilst others choose to undertake skills training at local institutions. The basis of the program is to provide the children with the best chance of receiving employment in the future.

English and computer skills are central to gaining employment in modern Cambodia. However, this program is about finding more specific skills for the children to learn according to their interests and abilities.

Eg: Mechanic, electrician, Design technology, sewing etc..

Rather than having specific age limits, it is the philosophy of HFCC that we will continue to care for the children in the centre until they have the ability to care for themselves.





## Health Program @ HFCC

The health and medical programs at the HFCC are diverse. We have a number of children that are HIV positive and need ongoing medical assessment.

Furthermore, in Cambodia and the HFCC there are numerous illnesses and disabilities that are common for children, such as Hepatitis A, B or C, Tuberculosis, Polio, Malaria, Dengue fever, Typhoid, Scabies, Epilepsy, Oxygen Deprivation, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, Sever Malnutrition, Cerebral Palsy and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

HFCC runs a small clinic with a full-time nurse.

Our children receive

1. Frequent medical assessments, which are documented and private.
2. Vaccinations
3. Dental Treatment
4. Necessary Medication
5. Blood Tests



Many of the children in HFCC often require

Emergency Medical Treatment, at local hospitals or clinics in Battambang.

However, for serious medical programs or operations it is necessary to take the children to Hospitals in either Siem Reap or Phnom Penh that have a higher standard of care.

Our clinic also offers its services to people in the local community. The clinic works as a diagnosis and triage centre for people in the Ballat village.

All medical files and information concerning both children in the HFCC and the community are confidential.

# Care Program @ HFCC

## House parents

The most important carers in the HFCC are the House mothers and fathers.

Every child under the age of 16 lives in one of 7 bungalows at the centre, with 10-14 of their brothers and sisters. Each bungalow, or house, is cared for by a house mother or father. The children live their daily lives as a family, with cooking, cleaning, eating, washing and assorted activities.



This living situation was designed by the HFCC to ensure the children remain in a supportive family environment.

The Housemothers and Fathers at the HFCC are men and women from the local community. Many of them are from backgrounds of extreme poverty or illness. We also have two husband and wife couples.

## Counselling

All the children in the HFCC also have access to a counsellor. These private discussions are designed for the children to talk about the problems of the past, issues of the present and concerns of the future.

The counselling program has proved very successful. Many of the children have been able to express emotion and talk about the awful things that have happened to them in the past.

## Extra activities

HFCC also runs a number of activities designed for wellbeing and happiness

Such as

Sports programs (volleyball, football, badminton)

Dancing, singing and music

Gymnastics lessons (at a local arts school)

Drawing and painting

Storybook readings

Movie nights

And more...



# Community Development Program @ HFCC

HFCC is actively involved in the local community.

Our programs seek to address three areas

1. Cambodia and its history and culture as a whole
2. The province of Battambang
3. The local commune of Ballat Village.

It is our goal to teach the children in the HFCC local customs and culture, and in doing so keep a strong contact with Cambodian society.

A connection with local community is necessary for the children to be able to reintegrate themselves to society after leaving the HFCC.

HFCC is an institution designed to help Cambodia, and as such all of our services are designed to progress individuals and well as the community as a whole.

Our community based programs:

1. Although the HFCC is technically non religious, we maintain strong links to the local Buddhist pagoda. Our philosophy is to support children in the religion of their family. For nearly all of our children Buddhism plays a big role in their connection to the community.
2. Many of the children in HFCC have relatives, neighbours or friends in other areas (that are unable to care for them). HFCC wants to ensure that these connections with the community remain strong, as such the children make frequent visits to villages, families and friends houses.
3. In connection with the above 'home visits', the HFCC does a number of 'rice runs' per month to poor villages and other institutions in the local area.
4. As previously noted our education and medical services are open to members of the local community.



Community development is an area in which the HFCC is always looking to improve and expand upon.

We have a number of programs in development, and many informal activities that are designed to affirm our position in the community.

## Contact us

If you would like anymore information about us you can visit our website at  
[www.hopeforcambodianchildren.org](http://www.hopeforcambodianchildren.org)

The Australian Board

### **Executive**

Jenny McAuley, Chair

John Kinsella, Deputy Chair

Ross Smith - Treasurer

David McAuley - Secretary

William Ayliffe - Public Officer



### **Members**

Tim Berry

Michael Clarke

Fran Ferguson

Rob Ferguson

Joy Smithers

For any more details contact

David McAuley , Secretary to the HFCC Foundation Board

[davidmcauley00@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmcauley00@hotmail.com) +61412648095